

Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation in Caerphilly County Borough Council	
<u>LDP Policy Ref. NH 3.98</u>	SINC name: Remplo Factory Grounds, Oakdale
Grid reference: ST197982	Area (hectares): 1
Survey date: 16th July 2007	Surveyed by: Dr Peter Sturgess (Hyder Consulting Ltd.)
(UDP policy reference: C11.67)	
Summary description	
An area of grassland and scrub on brownfield land comprising a mix of soil types and rubble. The main scrub species are Grey willow, Downy birch and Sycamore. The grassland includes a flower-rich mix of both (typically) acid and calcareous species, with a relatively open sward. Several anthills are present on the sloping eastern bank and Slow Worms are also present.	
Qualifying features	
Post-industrial grassland (almost attaining SINC qualifying threshold – see note* below)	
Secondary features	
Scrub.	
Potential value/ unconfirmed features	
* A thorough botanical survey would almost certainly find sufficient indicator species to meet the SINC qualifying criteria for post-industrial land (20 indicator species are required and 19 were noted during the survey for this review).	
The site could potentially support a large population of Slow worms and, possibly, Common lizards.	
The site is likely to support a moderate diversity of invertebrate species.	
Current management (including problems and opportunities for biodiversity enhancement)	
The site is surrounded by high fencing and generally appears to be unmanaged. The scrub habitat occupies over half of the area and has probably led to a reduction in the value of the site as the more diverse habitat has become shaded. Some localised tree clearance has taken place recently, but it is unclear why it has been cleared and at least some appears to have been the work of vandals (cutting the trees approximately 1m from the ground). Scrub clearance is likely to be beneficial for biodiversity, to allow the more diverse grassland habitats to remain open. However, the trees should ideally be cleared systematically (and cut at ground level) to form sheltered glades around the best grassland areas, and trees removed from the grass areas to provide habitat for wildlife at the scrub margins.	
Access/ community use	
There is no formal public access to the site, but there are several holes in the fence and evidence of informal use.	
Additional information	
The post-industrial land to the southeast (ST198981) also contains a mix of grassland and scrub habitats that may meet SINC qualifying criteria and support reptiles. This should be considered at future SINC review.	

Species list (Dominant species, SINC Criteria, RDB or other notable indicator species)

(LBAP species shown in **bold**, species confirmed by 2007 survey in *italics*)

Scrub species: *Salix cinerea*, *Salix caprea*, *Betula pubescens*, *Acer pseudoplatanus*, *Rubus fruticosus*, *Corylus avellana*, *Crataegus monogyna*, *Larix sp.*, *Quercus petraea*, *Ulex europaeus*, *Rosa canina*, *Cotoneaster sp.*, *Prunus spinosa*, *Fagus sylvatica*, *Pinus sp.*, *Hedera helix*, *Chamerion angustifolium*, *Ranunculus repens*, *Prunella vulgaris*, ***Epipactis helleborine***, *Brachythecium rutabulum*, *Kindbergia praelonga*.

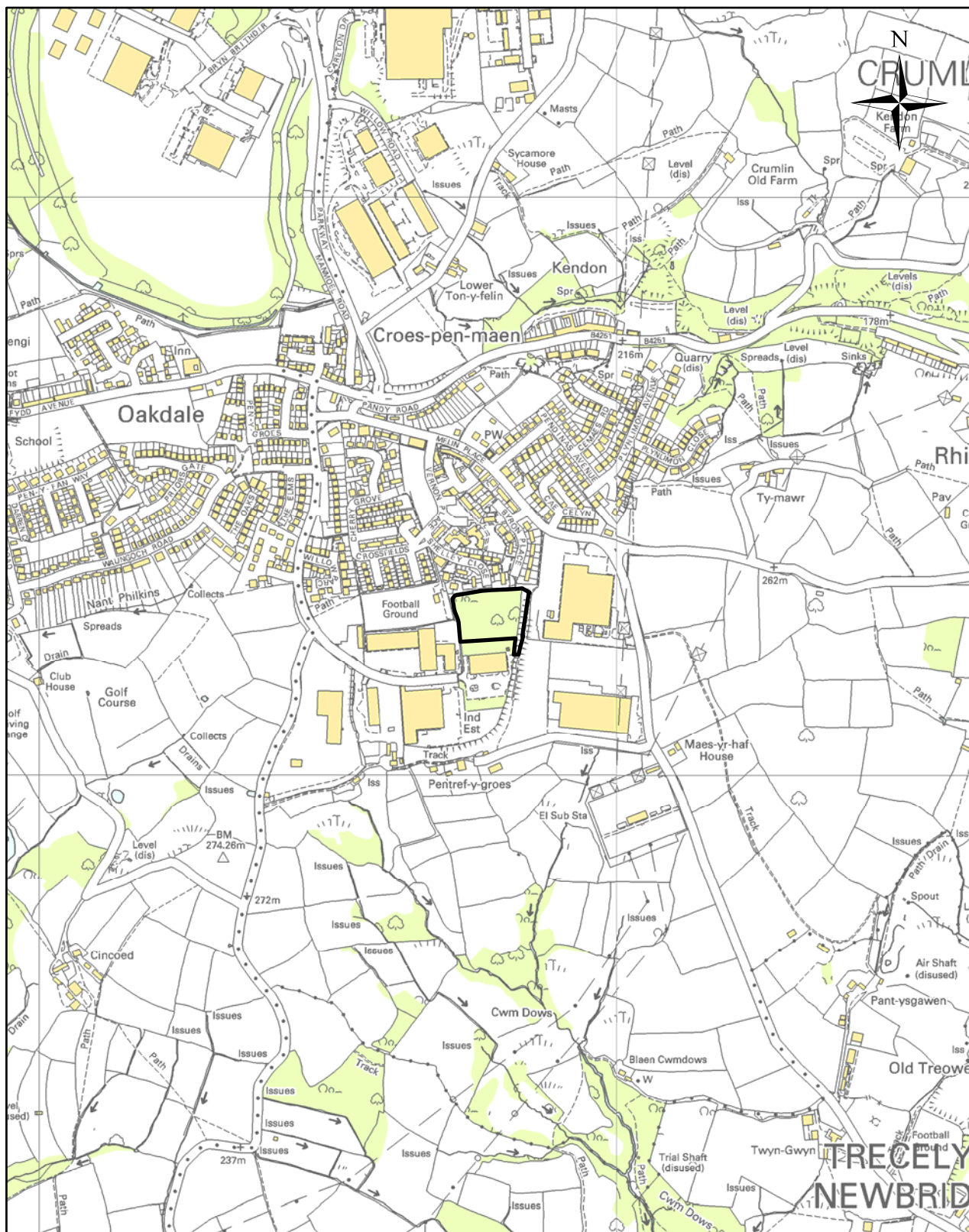
Grassland species (locally grading into scrub): *Lotus corniculatus*, *Leucanthemum vulgare*, *Galium saxatile*, *Potentilla reptans*, *Rumex acetosa*, *Plantago lanceolata*, *Potentilla erecta*, *Lathyrus pratensis*, *Digitalis purpurea*, *Trifolium pratense*, *Vicia cracca*, *Vicia tetrasperma*, *Centaurea nigra*, *Hieracium sp.*, *Hypericum perforatum*, *Pilosella officinarum*, ***Rhinanthus minor***, *Medicago lupulina*, *Veronica chamaedrys*, *Senecio jacobaea*, *Alchemilla sp.*, *Linum catharticum*, *Ranunculus acris*, *Leontodon hispidus*, *Trifolium campestre*, *Prunella vulgaris*, *Agrostis capillaris*, *Arrhenatherum elatius*, *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, *Festuca rubra*, *Holcus lanatus*, *Dactylis glomerata*, *Aira caryophylla*, *Deschampsia cespitosa*, *Luzula campestris*, *Carex flacca*, *Carex hirta*, *Juncus effusus*, *Blechnum spicant*, *Rhytidiadelphus squarrosus*, *Scleropodium purum*, *Hypnum lacunosum*, *Dicranum scoparium*, *Calliergonella cuspidata*, *Polytrichum urnigerum*, *Ptilidium ciliare*.

Fauna observations: ***Slow Worm***, ***Common Toad***, *Greenfinch*, *Blue Tit*, *Wood Pigeon*, *Meadow Brown Butterfly*, possibly *Small Skipper Butterfly*.

Additional records from desk study: ***Common Frog***, Burnet moths, *Sorbus aucuparia*, *Quercus robur*, *Carex viridula*, *Anaphalis margaritacea*, *Reseda luteola*, *Vaccinium myrtillus*, *Calluna vulgaris*, *Festuca arundinacea*.

Caerphilly County Borough Council
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Remploy Factory Grounds, Oakdale 1 Ha

1:10,000



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Gall hyn arwain at erlyniad neu achos sifil. Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Caerffili, 100025372, 2008.